

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-107. (Canceled)

108. (Currently Amended) A device for use in closing septal defects comprising:

a medial portion having a longitudinal axis;
first and second sets of fingers mounted on the medial portion that are capable of extending substantially radially outward from the axis, the first and second sets being spaced an axial distance apart from each other on the axis, and wherein ~~the axial distance between the first and second sets can be changed~~ only one set of fingers is covered by a web of material between adjacent ones of the fingers.

109. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 108 wherein ~~at least one~~ the uncovered set of fingers has free ends ~~and is not covered with any material.~~

110. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers are resiliently biased to extend substantially radially outward from the axis.

111. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers comprise nitinol.

112. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 108 wherein ~~at least one set of fingers is covered by an elastic web between adjacent ones of the set of fingers~~ the web of material is elastic.

113. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 112 wherein the web comprises silicone.

114. (Previously Presented) An installation assembly for installing the device of claim 108 comprising a delivery structure disposed around the device substantially coaxial to the axis of the medial portion, whereby the fingers are elastically deflected inwardly toward parallelism with the axis.

115. (New) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different thickness along its length.

116. (New) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different width along its length.

117. (New) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different flexural stiffness radially of the medial portion along its length.

118. (New) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers are configured to elastically deflect toward parallelism with the axis.

119. (New) The device of claim 119 wherein the sets of fingers are configured to deflect in opposite directions and away from each other.

120. (New) A device for use in closing septal defects comprising:

first and second sets of fingers coaxially disposed about an axis configured to extend substantially radially outward from the axis, wherein only one set of fingers is covered by a web of material between adjacent ones of the fingers, and wherein a suture secures together the first set of fingers with the second set of fingers.

121. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the uncovered set of fingers has free ends.

122. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the fingers are resiliently biased to extend substantially radially outward from the axis.

123. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the fingers comprise nitinol.

124. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the web of material is elastic.

125. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the web comprises silicone.

126. (New) An installation assembly for installing the device of claim 120 comprising a delivery structure disposed around the device substantially coaxial to the axis, whereby the fingers are elastically deflected inwardly toward parallelism with the axis.

127. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein each finger has different thickness along its length.

128. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein each finger has different width along its length.

129. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein each finger has different flexural stiffness along its length.

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130. (New) The device of claim 120 wherein the fingers are configured to elastically deflect toward parallelism with the axis.

131. (New) The device of claim 130 wherein the sets of fingers are configured to deflect in opposite directions and away from each other.

132. (New) A method for closing an aperture comprising:

providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers coaxially disposed about an axis that are configured to extend substantially radially outward from the axis, wherein only one set of fingers is covered by a web of material between adjacent ones of the fingers;

loading the closure device within a delivery structure that is disposed substantially coaxially about the device and with the axis, wherein the fingers of the device are configured to elastically deflect toward parallelism with the axis within the delivery structure;

inserting the delivery structure through the aperture to be closed;

withdrawing the delivery structure to allow the first set of fingers to extend radially outward on a distal side of the aperture to engage tissue surrounding the aperture on the distal side; and

further withdrawing the delivery structure to allow the second set of fingers to extend radially outward on a proximal side of the aperture to engage tissue surrounding the aperture on the proximal side.

133. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device further comprises providing a medial portion substantially coaxial with the axis on which the sets of fingers are mounted an axial distance apart from each other.

134. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device further comprises providing a suture to secure together the first set of fingers with the second set of fingers.

135. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers comprises providing fingers that are resiliently biased to extend substantially radially outward from the axis.

136. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers comprises providing fingers made of nitinol.

137. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having only one set of fingers covered by a web of material comprises providing only one set of fingers covered by a web of elastic material.

138. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having only one set of fingers covered by a web of material comprises providing only one set of fingers covered by a web of silicon material.

139. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers comprises providing each finger with different thickness along its length.

140. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers comprises providing each finger with different width along its length.

141. (New) The method of claim 132 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of

fingers comprises providing each finger with different flexural stiffness along its length.

142. (New) The device of claim 130 wherein providing a closure device having first and second sets of fingers comprises providing sets of fingers configured to elastically deflect toward parallelism with the axis in opposite directions and away from each other.